

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 /157 W

----- 030392

R 101243Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8793

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0981

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, EEC, DA, XT

SUBJECT: ETUC CONGRESS - PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES

REF: COPENHAGEN 862

SUMMARY. PEER CARLSEN, INTERNATIONAL

AFFAIRS SECRETARY OF DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO),

CONFIRMED THAT LO CHAIRMAN THOMAS NIELSEN HAD BEEN

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REQUESTED TO RUN FOR PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE

UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) BY WEST GERMAN DGB LEADERS. REQUEST WAS IN FORM OF PACKAGE PROPOSAL IN THAT WEST GERMANS ALSO OFFERED TO SUPPORT CARLSEN FOR POST OF DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY VACATED BY NORWEGIAN KAARE SANDEGREN. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH LABATT APRIL 9 CARLSEN CONFIRMED REPORT THAT DGB HAD TAKEN INITIATIVE IN ASKING NIELSEN TO RUN FOR ETUC PRESIDENCY (SEE REFTEL). LATTER HAS NOT YET MADE A DECISION TO RUN, CARLSEN SAID, IMPLYING THAT NIELSEN WOULD FIRST TAKE SOUNDINGS AT ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN BRUSSELS APRIL 10. ON THE OTHER HAND, NIELSEN HAS DIVESTED HIMSELF OF NORDIC TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (NTUC) RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOTTEN TENTATIVE NORDIC BACKING.

2. CARLSEN ADDED THAT DGB HAD ALSO REQUESTED HIM TO MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE FOR DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY POST FILLING VACANCY LEFT BY KAARE SONDEGREN, INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF NORWEGIAN LO. ACCORDING TO CARLSEN THE GERMAN REQUEST HAD BEEN A PACKAGE PROPOSAL - RECOGNIZING FACT THAT NIELSEN'S LANGUAGE DEFICIENCY (HE SPEAKS ONLY DANISH) WOULD REQUIRE THAT CARLSEN CONTINUE TO PLAY ROLE AS NIELSEN'S ALTER EGO FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, A FUNCTION HE COULD FULFILL IN ETUC CONTEXT AS RASSCHAERT'S DEPUTY.

3. FURTHER DISCUSSION REVEALED THAT CARLSEN WOULD TAKE DEPUTY POSITION ONLY IF IT RETAINED THE CHARACTER AND FUNCTIONS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED FOR IT UNDER SANDEGREN. SINCE RASSCHAERT HAD PROVEN TO HAVE SO DEFINITE AN "EC OPTIC", IT WAS MORE THAN EVER NECESSARY TO HAVE A STRONG DEPUTY WITH A COUNTERVAILING, WIDER VIEW, HE SAID.

4. CARLSEN CITED, IN THIS CONNECTION, THE SUGGESTION THAT JEAN KULAKOWSKY OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL) SHOULD BE MADE A DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY TO REPRESENT THE CHRISTIAN EUROPEAN UNIONS WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO AFFILIATE TO THE ETUC THIS SPRING, COMMENTING THAT HE WOULD REFUSE TO BE PART OF SUCH A "TROIKA." IF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CHRISTIANS, WITH 300 THOUSAND MEMBERS, SHOULD HAVE A DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARYSHIP, HE REMARKED, THE SCANDINAVIANS, THE TUC AND THE DGB SHOULD EACH HAVE THREE.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CARLSEN'S CANDIDACY IS CLEARLY A NECESSARY CONDITION FOR NIELSEN'S SERVING AS ETUC PRESIDENT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT CARLSEN IS INDEPENDENTLY INTERESTED IN THE DEPUTY GEN-SEC JOB. EVEN IF NIELSEN

DECIDES NOT TO RUN, THE SCANDINAVIAN BLOC WILL WANT  
REPRESENTATION AMONG THE ETUC EXECUTIVE OFFICERS - TO  
RESTORE THE ORIGINAL EC-EFTA BALANCE BROKEN BY SANDEGREN'S  
DEPARTURE. NIELSEN AND CARLSEN APPARENTLY FEEL THAT AS  
REPRESENTATIVES OF A SMALL COUNTRY, WHICH HAS BEEN  
MEMBER OF BOTH BLOCS, THEY COULD RE-ESTABLISH THAT  
BALANCE IN A LESS FRICTION-PRONE FORM.

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## Message Attributes

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